

Cityhood to Be Decided at Polls Tuesday

Next Tuesday will be a red-letter day for the nearly 58,000 residents of the Dominguez-Carson area who could wind up in a brand new city after balloting on a proposal to form the county's 77th incorporated city.

In an editorial in today's editions, the Press-Herald endorses incorporation.

About 16,000 of the nearly 58,000 residents of the area bounded generally by the Harbor Freeway, Lomita Boulevard, Wilmington Avenue, and Victoria Street, will be eligible to cast ballots on the question of incorporation, for a five-

man city council out of a field of 35, for the name of the city—Carson or Dominguez—and for a city clerk and city treasurer.

Attempts to incorporate the area have a long history, much of it snarled up in red tape, local bickering, and a lukewarm reception to the cityhood idea by many segments of the community who were able to quash earlier attempts by one method or another.

Next Tuesday's balloting will represent a major victory over most of the earlier oppo-

sition. Industry, business, and homeowners groups have been joined by service clubs, fraternal organization, and other civic groups in working for incorporation.

For the first time, the powerful Dominguez Industrial Council, which represents much of the industrial property in the large area, backed the incorporation attempt. A feasibility study by a recognized Southland research firm showed that the city could be a financial success.

Industry, Chambers of Commerce, and business and home-

owner leaders joined in the Dominguez-Carson Citizens Committee for Incorporation.

Despite last minute attempts to frighten voters into voting against incorporation with campaign material imported from the Antelope Valley, most observers are confident that the voters will vote for incorporation Feb. 6.

If approved, the city would cover 15.03 square miles and would include a heterogeneous population of Caucasian, Negro, Jewish, Mexican, and Oriental families, all determined to have a voice in their own

affairs through a city government.

The new city would be 20th in size in Los Angeles County and would have an assessed valuation of \$166 million.

Operation of the city without a local tax levy is projected. An expected revenue of \$2.4 million from state and county sources has been forecast for the first fiscal year—and a surplus of \$650,000 contemplated.

Within the boundary of the proposed new city are several elementary schools, the Stephen White Junior High School, and Carson High

School. Also within the new city is the new Cal State College at Dominguez Hills which is being constructed on 346 acres near Victoria Street and Avalon Boulevard.

The county operates and would continue to operate Victoria Park and Golf Course at 190th Street at Avalon Boulevard.

The new city would become a contract city with Los Angeles County, contracting for law enforcement and other municipal services. The California Highway Patrol would continue to operate in its tra-

ditional areas, but the Los Angeles County Sheriff's office probably would step up local enforcement details under a contract arrangement, area leaders report.

A five-man council to be chosen by voters Tuesday would determine policy of the city and select an administrator.

Tuesday's balloting is the fulfillment of a dream for many in the area who have literally spent years fighting for cityhood. They are confident that this time the fight will be successful.

Torrance Press-Herald

Published semi-weekly Wednesday and Sunday by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, Under act of March 3, 1879

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Circulation Office DA 5-1515
Advertising DA 5-6060
Women's News DA 5-6380
News Department DA 5-6060

Series II, Volume IV, Number 62

3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California — Wednesday, January 31, 1968

By Carrier 50c Per Month 10c Per Copy 70 Pages
By Mail, \$18 Per Year



ENTER CONTEST . . . Susan Foster (left), reigning Miss Torrance, and three girls who have entered the Miss Torrance Beauty Pageant for 1968 check a copy of the Press-Herald announcing rules for the 1968 contest. The first entrants include Celeste Horwith, a 22-year-old Cal State Long Beach coed; Etta Cumiford, 20; and Karlene Koch, 19, a Harbor College coed. The new Miss Torrance will be selected March 9. The contest, open to single girls in the Torrance area who will be high school graduates and between 18 and 28 next Sept. 4, is an official preliminary for the 1968 Miss America Beauty Pageant. (Press-Herald Photo)

Youth Dies as Bleacher Topples at South High

Three Others Escape Injury

Attempts by a group of youths to lift a one-ton bleacher in the South High stadium ended in death for 21-year-old Dennis K. Haslam, 4504 W. 231st St., late Monday night.

Haslam was crushed to death under a ton of concrete, steel, and wood as he and three other youths toppled a giant portable bleacher in the school stadium.

Torrance police units arriving on the scene about 10 p.m. found Haslam unconscious beside the overturned bleacher, bleeding from his ear. His three companions, who escaped injury, told police they had managed to pull Haslam out from under the bleacher.

of the football field in the vicinity of the bleachers.

POLICE said they found other evidence of vandalism after surveying the campus with Dr. John A. Lucas, principal, and Carl I. Benson, assistant principal.

Reports indicate that a storage room at the southeast corner of the stadium had (See DEATH, Page A-2)

HASLAM was pronounced dead on arrival at Little Company of Mary Hospital. A one-time student of police science at El Camino College, he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. LeGrand Haslam. At the time of his death, Haslam was employed as a dispatcher at Aerona.

The three others involved in the incident were Danny Kerber, 18, of 4417 W. 226th St.; Jay Masterson, 18, of 805 Calle de Arboles; and a 17-year-old Torrance boy. All four were former students at South High.

A custodian at the school told investigating officers that he had earlier observed several youths cavorting on the gym and cafeteria roofs and shouted at them to leave. The custodian said he later observed a group of youths on

Pay Hike Stays on Ballot

The question of a pay raise for Torrance Councilmen will remain on the April 9 municipal ballot.

Councilmen last night voted 4-3 not to bring up the ballot measure for further discussion. The effect of the vote was to confirm a previous decision to let the voters settle the question.

Councilmen want to boost their salaries, now at \$100 a month, to the level established in Sacramento for general law cities. The measure, if passed, would immediately raise their salaries to \$300 a month, even though Torrance is a charter city.

Councilmen's salaries would then be raised automatically in accordance with State Legislature rulings.



PLANNING SESSION . . . Representatives of the U. S. Armed Forces discuss preliminary plans for the 1968 Armed Forces Day celebration here with George S. Wing (center), president of the Hi-Shear Corp. and general chairman of the event planned for May 17 and 18. With Wing are (from left) Col. James Stell, U.S. Army; Maj. Laurel Hanson, U.S. Air Force; Lt. Cmdr. Hugh Wheeler, U.S. Navy; Master Sgt. Marshall Graham, U.S. Marine Corps. Major events of the two-day celebration include a giant fireworks show and the annual parade. (Press-Herald Photo)

Plan Approved for City Hall Addition

Preliminary plans for an ultra-modern, three-story addition to the Torrance City Hall were approved unanimously at a meeting of the City Council last night.

Mayor Albert Isen termed the plans "striking, original, and imaginative" in praising the architectural firm of Earl Heitschmidt and Associates. The company has been working on the basic plans for the past 11 months.

The proposed structure, to cost an estimated \$1,035,000, will connect the existing City Hall and Police Station, fronting on Torrance Boulevard. City officials had considered and rejected an alternate proposal to erect the structure on the site of the present lounge.

THE FIRST plan will allow for future expansion while the second alternative would not.

Ground floor of the proposed addition will house a City Council Chamber with a seating capacity of 220 persons, expandable by sliding partitions to seat an additional 100 persons.

The second floor will house general city functions related with the second floors of the

existing City Hall and Public Works buildings.

Offices of the city manager and city attorney will be housed on the third floor, in addition to conference rooms.

APPROXIMATELY one third of each floor will be unfinished to allow for expansion during the next ten years, keeping immediate costs down.

Total gross area of a typical floor is 10,640 square feet. A basement of some 7,040 square feet is included.

Plans call for a minimal remodeling of the existing City Hall, Page A-3

Sciarrotta to Run for Congress

By NATALIE HALL, Press-Herald Staff Writer

City Councilman Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr. hopes to challenge veteran Congressman Cecil R. King for the 17th Congressional seat on the November ballot. The 59-year-old local lawmaker formally announced his intention to seek the Republican nomination at a press conference Tuesday at City Hall.

Sciarrotta said he realizes he would have an uphill fight to unseat King, a Democrat, who has held his seat for the past 25 years. "But whether or not I win," Sciarrotta said, "the issues are bound to come out."

Sciarrotta underlined that he is seeking the congressional seat in order to help "stem the tide which has lowered our image in world af-

airs and lowered the fibre of the once rugged American."

"There is no doubt in my mind," he said, "that the welfare state has assumed and is assuming more and more the burdens formerly shouldered by the individual." While Sciarrotta supports the intent of the War on Poverty and Medicare, he believes these programs are wasteful and poorly administered.

THE CONGRESSIONAL hopeful also said the government should crack down on allotments to parents of illegitimate children and, instead, stress job training in the welfare program.

Speaking repeatedly of "moral integrity," "initiative," and "individual choice," Sciarrotta blasted the country's in-

creasing crime rate. "We must stop coddling law-breakers," dealing firmly with rioters, looters, and criminals, Sciarrotta added.

Prevention is part of the answer to the crime problem, he went on. The father of eight children suggested that more wholesome activities be organized for the nation's youth in every community.

WORLD AFFAIRS was another topic of comment. Sciarrotta said the United States has "lost its initiative" in the international sphere through "blundering." He added that the nation should not "react to moves made by other nations on the international chessboard," but instead (See CONGRESS, Page A-2)



ROSS SCIARROTTA SR.

Job Center Will Begin Operation

First classes at the Southern California Regional Occupational Center will begin Monday, Dr. Wayne Butterbaugh, superintendent of the center, said today.

Classes will be conducted at the Torrance Family YMCA, 2900 W. Sepulveda Blvd., and in a number of portable units located at 21715 Hawthorne Blvd.

First permanent facilities for the center, located at 2300 Crenshaw Blvd., are expected to be completed in six to eight weeks, Dr. Butterbaugh said.

THE HAWTHORNE Boulevard location, leased by the center for temporary use, will house business, data processing, and key punch programs.

Welding, major appliance repair, and medical and dental assisting will be taught at the YMCA.

Some 320 students have enrolled for the spring semester, Dr. Butterbaugh said.

Registration Deadline Near . . .

The Torrance branch office of the Department of Motor Vehicles, 1907 Abalone Ave., will be open Saturday from 8 a.m. until noon for vehicle registration, Marvin L. Utter, manager, said today. Utter also said the office will be open until 5 p.m. Monday, the last day to pay 1968 vehicle registration fees without penalty. Fees may be paid by mail without penalty provided the envelope is postmarked prior to midnight Monday. Utter said driver's license testing also will be available Saturday.

College Chancellor to Visit . . .

Dr. Glenn S. Dumke, chancellor of the California State Colleges, and his staff will spend tomorrow on the campus of California State College, Dominguez Hills. Dr. Dumke and his staff will conduct a series of meetings with faculty and staff members on the Dominguez Hills campus. Meetings with student leaders and with the college's Advisory Board also are scheduled. A reception honoring Dr. Dumke is being planned by the Student Association at noon.

Redondo Police Chief Named . . .

Louis J. Sunyich, a 54-year-old Los Angeles Police Department captain, Monday was named chief of police in Redondo Beach. City Manager Francis Hopkins made the announcement at Monday's Redondo Beach council meeting. Chief Sunyich succeeds William A. Bechtel, who retired last August. Sunyich served 26 years with the Los Angeles Police Department. He was commander of the Newton Street Division for four years and served as head of the University Division for a year. The new chief is a native of Los Angeles and a veteran of World War II.